

MidAmerica Region, UUA
Board Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2020

Trustees Present: Rae Jane Araujo, Kyrie Bock, Hans Kelson, David Lauth, Tammy Lemmer, Autumn Mahoney, Jim Moir, Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan

Trustees Absent: Dorit Bergen

Staff Present: David Pyle, Sharon Dittmar

David L called the meeting to order, welcomed our new members, and shared opening words from Tony Kushner.

Tammy moved and Sarah seconded adoption of the April 1, 2020 Board meeting minutes and the April 18, 2020 annual business meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Sharon led an exercise pairing a current Board or staff member with a new Board member, in order for us to get to know one another better. We each then shared with the group our partner's thoughts on why they chose to serve on the Board, a hobby or favorite pastime they have that no one would guess, how they engage in a group, and how the COVID-19 pandemic is changing them.

Reflections on Regional Assembly

We had 230 people in attendance at our virtual Regional Assembly, which was a terrific turnout. We were able to reduce the registration fee to \$25, and the event was still financially self-sustaining. Many attendees missed the personal connections that occur at an in-person event, and our hope in the future is to have an in-person event that also allows for remote participation.

Board members shared their appreciation for all of the staff work that went into designing and creating a virtual Assembly for the first time, on very short notice, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Update on National Advisory Council

David L shared the history of our work as a Regional Advisory Council in prior years, and the ongoing formation of the National Advisory Council. David P shared that UUA is revising the questions we will ask congregations, to reflect the current focus on dealing with the pandemic. David P also stressed the value to the Regional staff of our interaction with congregations. We are still on hold with respect to making any congregational calls.

Common Read

Tammy led a discussion of Chapter 10 and the Conclusion of *An Indigenous People's History of the United States*. There was discussion about what individuals can do with the insights we have gained from reading the book, and whether/how we will have a Board retreat in the Black Hills area of South Dakota as we have been planning.

The Board held its Process Observation-Check Out.

David L shared closing words from Annie Dillard and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
David Lauth
Board President